

New This Season In Fire Weather

The National Weather Service offices serving Iowa have come together with other partners in the fire weather community to develop a statewide fire weather plan for Iowa. This plan will serve the public as well as the fire weather community. For the fire weather community, there will be consistency between forecasts and warnings that are issued and the criteria for issuing them. For the general public, there are a couple of new forecast products to be aware of. All offices will now issue the Fire Weather Watch. This is designed to alert everyone of the possibility of dry and windy conditions producing explosive fire conditions. Caution should be taken with any burns when this product is issued for an area. The Red Flag Warning is also new to many areas of Iowa for this season. The Red Flag Warning will be issued when very high or extreme fire conditions exist for explosive fire conditions. Burns...or any activity that may produce a fire...should be halted during a Red Flag Warning. Conditions that warrant that product mean the fires can spread rapidly and quickly get out of control causing a threat to life and property.

The Red Flag Warning and Fire Weather Watch will also be highlighted on our warning area map on our website, much like other watch, warning and advisory products do. The fire weather page of our website will also continue to have links to various fire weather forecast pages as well as drought and smoke management pages. There will also be quick links to our fire weather planning forecast and our annual operating plan. The fire weather page will also continue to show a thumbnail of our Grassland Fire Danger Index. This index, in the thumbnail view, provides a good first guess at a glance as to whether very high or extreme fire conditions will exist over your area. We encourage everyone to check out our fire weather forecast page on this website and become familiar with the many forecasts and interactive forecast tools available to aid in making informed decisions on your activities. We hope you find this page useful.